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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

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18 JUL 1977

The Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Collection, Production and Quality
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Senator Stevenson:

The sanitized draft Statement on the Committee's recent report, "The National Intelligence Estimates - B Team Episode Concerning Soviet Strategic Capabilities and Objectives" has been reviewed as requested in your letter of June 15, 1977. The draft Statement does not require any changes prior to public release in order to protect intelligence methods and sources.

My letter of May 11, 1977 commenting on the classified version of the Committee's draft report, forwarded a number of suggested changes pertaining to accuracy and clarity of the report. Based on these suggestions the following changes are proposed in the unclassified Statement for reasons of accuracy and clarity.

--The penultimate sentence of the paragraph at the top of page 3 can be interpreted as implying DCI concurrence in the Committee Report and public Statement. It is suggested that the sentence be reworded as follows:

"The comments of the Director of Central Intelligence, Admiral Stansfield Turner, on the Report and the present Statement were given consideration by the Committee."

--The last sentence of the third paragraph on page 4 of the draft Statement does not accurately describe the role of the DCI in the experiment. It is suggested that the two sentences of this paragraph be revised to read as follows:

"Responding to the PFIAB initiatives, the new DCI, Mr. George Bush, consented to the experiment, and by June 1976, the PFIAB and the DCI had worked out ground rules for a competitive assessment experiment. The DCI, through his representatives, made arrangements for and monitored the experiment in accordance with these ground rules; members of the PFIAB were called upon to assist in the formation of the three B Teams and took an active role in the selection of team members."

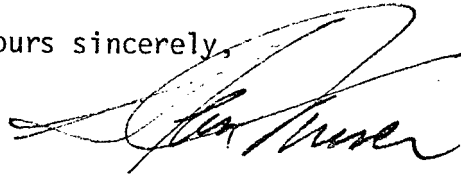
--The second paragraph on page 6 of the Statement should make clear that the scope of the NIE did not call for coverage of many of the subjects which the Committee finds were not adequately treated. It is suggested that the third sentence be revised to read as follows:

"Because of its specified purpose and scope, the NIE does not address the question of how Soviet-strategic weapons development fits into the entire panoply of Soviet domestic, military, diplomatic, economic and other world efforts."

--With respect to the findings in the first and last paragraphs on page 7, we have no basis for any implication that political pressures affected the professional work of the B Teams or that the press leaks were attributable to them. Moreover, the last sentence of the first paragraph incorrectly indicates that those responsible for preparation of the NIE were subject to political pressures. This sentence should be changed to read:

"Not all of these requirements obtained in the case of the NIE - B Team exercise."

Yours sincerely,



STANSFIELD TURNER

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-3-

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LETTER to Senator Stevenson re sanitized draft Statement on Senate Select
Committee Report

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